Socio-Cultural Barriers In the Way of Sustainable Faecal Sludge Management (FSM) In Pakistan

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Introduction & Background of Study

- Study conducted in Tandlianwala-Faisalabad
- Total 20 Hamlet & 39,000 Population with Poor socioeconomic & WASH Poverty

Objectives of Study

- To get a better understanding of sanitation approaches & practices in rural communities
- To implement the safety measures of FSM
- To analyze socio-cultural barrier of inhabitant for sustainable FSM
Methodology & Tools

• 13 hamlets selected out of 20 as targeted population
• Structured Questionnaire, FGDs & Personal observation (Data Collection Tools)
• 1300 households as a sample with random sampling
• 130 FGDs Session with 50% male/female ratio(10/H)
• Religious leader interviewed from each hamlet
• Government Officials also interviewed about WASH services.
Key Finding

- Almost 95% Muslim agricultural
- Low socioeconomic & educational status
- Strongly against toilets construction at home Due To
- Religiously rigid
- Limited knowledge about hygienic & FSM

Figure 1 Sanitation Practices in the Community

- Open Defecation: 42%
- Drop & Store: 18%
- Flush & Forget: 29%
- Flush & Discharge: 11%
Key Finding

- Dislike talking about FSM
- Enjoy to do Open defecation
- Reluctance to talk about faeces-urine (faeco-phobic)
- No interest in FSM, even if subsidised
- Smell & health hazardous
Advocacy Activities

- Women WASH Group - Youth Faeces Task Force (YFTF)
- Faeces used as organic fertilizer & Irrigated with Black water
- While Inorganic fertilizer & freshwater used for next crop
- FSM 4 time Cost Effective
Pictorial Glance

Collection Lane

Collection Pond

On Field
Height of FSM used Crop

FSM-Used Crop

Traditional Cultivation
Community Acknowledgement of FSM Significant

• Its Water saving, money, time & health
• Ecological sound-environmentally friendly **But**
• They will never use their faeces & urine
• Would **prefer** to **Die** rather than using crop & biogas from FSM
• Villager assumed disgusting role of researcher as asking & practicing on FSM
Conclusion

- FSM quite profitable business- ecological sound
- Having Small Act Big Impact philosophy BUT
- Difficult to apply universally around the world
- Local communities total against FSM-Reuse
- SocioEconomic-Culture-Religious-Policy’s Constraint
- Very difficult to adopt in Muslim World-(MW) equally especially in Pakistan
Fundamental Challenges to Sustainable FSM in Pakistan

- Religious Affiliation & Faecal-Phobic perception
- Socioeconomic & continuously Disaster Stress
- Poor Education & Environmental Hazardous
- Lake of Political will, Instability & Poor Policies
- Cross-cultural with Gender issue in FSM
- Institutional capacity & Health Paradigm
Recommendation

Sociocultural Barriers Could be Minimized With

- Education institution-Youth-Media Joint Venture
- Mobilization, awareness & capacity Building (Local)
- Political reinforcement-Policy mainstreaming
- Provision of Decentralization sanitation
- **Ecological perspective & Resource Recovery (Fertilizer)**
- Community engagement in FSM through Capacity Building (Biogas)